



bay restoration foundation

STEWARDS OF SANTA MONICA BAY

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Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation Meeting: October 16, 2008

Agenda Item: 4

To: Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation Board of Directors

From: Shelley Luce, Executive Director

Subject: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to Establish the Center for Santa Monica Bay Studies

Recommended Action

Staff recommends that the Board approve the MOU between Loyola-Marymount University (LMU) and the SMBRF to establish the Center for Santa Monica Bay Studies

Executive Summary

The Foundation has a unique opportunity to partner with LMU to establish the Center for Santa Monica Bay Studies (Center) in order to leverage funding opportunities, raise the profile of research conducted in the watershed, and attract other researchers and partners, among other advantages. The MOU establishes the working relationship between the two partners, LMU and the SMBRF, as well as laying out a decision-making structure and goals of the partnership.

Background and Detailed Description

The purpose of the MOU is to establish “the purposes for and operating procedures by which the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation and the Seaver College of Science and Engineering at Loyola Marymount University shall jointly establish and manage the Center for Santa Monica Bay Studies research program.”

The MOU sets out specific tasks for the Center, including attracting funding from diverse sources, raising the profile of research within the region, and attracting other researchers, etc. Specific goals are also established, including submittal of proposals to funding entities, providing administrative support to researchers, hosting at least one symposium annually, and hosting student interns from LMU to participate in various projects.

The MOU requires that the Center have two co-directors, including one appointed by the Dean of Seaver College and the other appointed by the Executive Director of the SMBRF. An advisory board is also established and includes the Director of LMU’s Sponsored Projects Office, the Dean of Seaver College, the Executive Director of

our mission: to restore and enhance the santa monica bay through actions and partnerships that improve water quality, conserve and rehabilitate natural resources, and protect the bay's benefits and values





SMBRF, and a member of the SMBRF board of directors.

Operating principles are also established and include agreement by the co-directors regarding which research projects will be conducted in association with the Center, grant distribution, required credit to the Center when research is conducted in association with it, and authorizing associated researchers to conduct students and outside consultants, et al.

Budget/Financial Impact

No negative fiscal impact to the Foundation. However, this collaboration presents a advantage to both signatories, as the partnership of the two different, but complementary entities adds clout to funding requests.

(MOU is attached to this report)



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This memorandum of understanding establishes the purposes for and operating procedures by which the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation (SMBRF) and the Seaver College of Science and Engineering at Loyola Marymount University (LMU) shall jointly establish and manage the Center for Santa Monica Bay Studies (the Center) research program.

The mission of the Center is to engage in multidisciplinary research on environmental and social issues affecting Santa Monica Bay and its watershed, and to contribute to policies and actions that improve the environmental condition of the Bay.

About the Bay

Santa Monica Bay is a large urban water body that supports diverse and valuable natural resources as well as the economic and recreational needs of millions of southern California residents and visitors. The interaction of a large urban population with the sensitive resources of the Bay and its watershed provides a unique opportunity for the study of natural systems in an urban environment.

About Seaver College

Founded in 1911, LMU is a Catholic university rooted in the Jesuit and Marymount traditions. As an integral part of LMU, Seaver College of Science and Engineering is committed to providing innovative, student-centered educational and research opportunities in an intellectually vibrant and socially just environment. Seaver College is dedicated to providing outstanding educational opportunities in science, engineering and mathematics in a mentoring environment to an increasingly diverse student body. The college emphasizes development of the whole person through its focus on ethical behavior and service to society. Students conduct sophisticated state-of-the-art research by working very closely with their professors and they participate in various undergraduate student research conferences and student design competitions.

About the SMBRF

The SMBRF is the non-profit partner of Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC), a National Estuary Program of the USEPA and a state agency charged with restoring the resources of Santa Monica Bay. In accordance with SMBRC's Bay Restoration Plan (updated in 2005), the organization works to build consensus among diverse stakeholders on environmental issues in Santa Monica Bay and its watersheds, including water quality, habitat restoration, public access and environmental justice. The SMBRF raises and expends funds for research, education, planning, cleanup efforts, and other priorities identified in the Bay Restoration Plan. The SMBRF is actively involved in conserving and restoring important habitats of the Santa Monica Bay ecosystem.



About the Center for Santa Monica Bay Studies

The Center shall be a joint program of the two institutions, whose collaborative efforts will provide a regional organizing body connecting research across disciplines, as well as a forum for the dissemination and discussion of results.

The Center for Santa Monica Bay Studies will:

- Focus attention on research needs in the Bay;
- Attract funding from diverse sources by providing a recognizable and highly-esteemed program in which name funds will be received;
- Assist in fundraising by concentrating fundraising experience and established relationships with funders under a centralized program;
- Raise the profile of research conducted, and provide public relations benefits to LMU and SMBRF as co-founders and operators of the Center;
- Provide a forum for dissemination of research on the Bay through Center-branded publications, seminars and conferences as well as articles for publication in journals, newsletters, etc.; and,
- Attract other researchers from throughout the region to LMU to partner in research efforts, and provide internship opportunities for students who seek practical research experience, including field and laboratory work as well as proposal writing, grant reporting and publishing.

The initial goals of the Center are to:

- Prepare and submit research proposals to funding entities;
- Provide administrative support for researchers preparing grant applications, administering grant funds, and writing journal articles and other publishable material;
- Host at least one symposium or conference annually, focusing on ongoing or recently-completed research related to the Bay; and
- Host student interns who will participate in all aspects of conducting and reporting on research.

The Center shall have two co-directors, including one appointed by the Dean of Seaver College and the other appointed by the Executive Director of the SMBRF. The Co-Directors shall oversee the Center's budget, determine research priorities, direct outreach and dissemination efforts, and oversee long-term development strategies of the Center.

An Advisory Board comprised of the Director of LMU's Sponsored Projects Office, the Dean of Seaver College, the Executive Director of SMBRF, and a member of the SMBRF board of directors, or the appointee(s) of any of the above, shall be constituted to provide oversight and guidance to the co-directors. The Advisory Board shall meet in person or by telephone/internet link at least once annually.

The Center is a collaborative program between LMU and SMBRF, and operates with the following understanding:

- The co-directors of the Center shall determine in advance when a research project is to be conducted in association with the Center.
- Grants applied for by SMBRF will be awarded to SMBRF and grants applied for by LMU will be awarded to LMU. When grants are applied for jointly, LMU and SMBRF shall decide in advance which entity will administer the grant.
- Center researchers may co-direct students and/or consultants in conducting field and lab research on Center projects.
- Researchers may be compensated outside of their status at LMU, subject to LMU faculty Handbook and Internal Revenue Service regulations.
- All research conducted in association with the Center shall credit the Center in the acknowledgment section of any publications and presentations, as follows:

“This research was sponsored by the Center for Santa Monica Bay Studies, a program of the Seaver College of Science and Engineering at Loyola Marymount University and the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation.”

- Prior to finalization of any research project or product, each co-director shall have the opportunity to remove the name of the Center from the product for any reason and to disassociate the Center from that research for any reason.
- Research conducted in association with the Center shall contribute toward fulfillment of the goals and mission of the SMBRF as described in the Bay Restoration Plan. Research shall not be limited to the specific tasks of the Bay Restoration Plan, but shall support the general goals and intent of the Bay Restoration Plan.

SMBRF agrees to and shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless LMU, its directors, trustees, employees, agents and representatives from and against any and all claims, demands, damages, suits, judgments, losses, or expenses of any nature whatsoever (including attorneys’ fees, court costs, and other expenses related thereto), including, but not limited to, those related to injury to or death of any person or persons and loss of or damage to any property owned by university or by a third party, arising directly or indirectly from or out of any act, error, negligence, or omission of any SMBRF affiliate, director, officer, employee, or other agent. SMBRF shall maintain a policy commercial general liability insurance with a limit of not less than \$1,000,000. The foregoing indemnities shall not be limited by the insurance requirements and shall extend to claims occurring after the Agreement has terminated as well as while the Agreement is in force.



LMU shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the SMBRF, its employees, agents and representatives harmless from and against any and all claims, demands, damages, suits, judgments, losses, or expenses of any nature whatsoever (including attorneys' fees, court costs, and other expenses related thereto), including, but not limited to, those related to injury to or death of any person or persons and loss of or damage to any property owned by university or by a third party, arising directly or indirectly from or out of any act, error, negligence, or omission of any LMU affiliate, director, officer, employee, or other agent. LMU will maintain in effect commercial general liability insurance with a limit of not less than \$1,000,000. The foregoing indemnities shall not be limited by the insurance requirements and shall extend to claims occurring after the Agreement has terminated as well as while the Agreement is in force.

Ernest Rose, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and
Chief Academic Officer

Date

Catherine Tyrrell
President, Board of Directors
Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation

Date